

## Absalom – The Rebellion Begins

### Introduction

Absalom is a son of King David and he comes onto the scene in 2 Samuel 13, where Absalom's half brother Amnon tricks and forces Absalom's sister Tamar into sleeping with him.

- When Absalom found out, the Bible says that he hated Amnon because of what he did but he neither said anything good nor bad to him (he kept the hatred a secret).
- After two years had passed, Absalom invites all the king's sons to a feast, but tells his servants that when Amnon is drunk with wine to kill him.
  - Once Amnon is dead, Absalom flees to Geshur for three years.
- David allows him to return to Jerusalem after three years, but does not allow him to come before him for two more years, which brings us to this story.

### 2 Samuel 15:1-6

- (1) And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.
- (2) And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was *so*, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Israel.
- (3) And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.
- (4) Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!
- (5) And it was *so*, that when any man came nigh *to him* to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.
- (6) And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

### The Rebellion Begins

Absalom is 27 years old and he had just been reinstated his privileges to go before the king and in these first 6 verses, we see that he begins to rebel against his father King David.

- Absalom wants the authority and wants to take the throne that rightfully belongs to David.
- There is a rebellion going on right now against our King Jesus Christ, individuals are rebelling against God and the great rebellion of Satan against God that still continues today.
  - Our world today promotes rebellion, which is not wanting to submit to authority and be the leader or god of their own lives.
  - Here is what the Bible says about rebellion:

(Luke 6:46) **And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**

- Rebelling against God is when we decide to reject what it says in God's Word or what the Holy Spirit leads.
  - Have you ever had a child rebel against you, was it frustrating as a parent?
    - Imagine how God feels when we rebel against him!

- There is no room for a Christian person to be a rebel against God there are consequences.

**Isaiah 63:10** But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them.

- It vexed or grieved the Holy Spirit when the children of Israel rebelled against God.
  - We need the Holy Spirit fully operating in our lives if we want to accomplish anything.

**Romans 13:1-2** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (2) Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

- The road of rebelling against God leads to one place, hell for eternity.
  - You cannot be a Christian and choose your own standards and truth.
  - You cannot put yourself as the highest authority above God and reap his benefits.
    - A Christian in rebellion will continually be chastised by God and given chances to repent until it is too late.

### How Rebellion Began?

**Isaiah 14:12-15** How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

- The first rebellion against God didn't happen in the Garden of Eden, but in heaven.
  - The Bible tells us that Satan was an anointed and powerful angel in heaven, but one day, pride welled up in his heart and he wanted to exalt his throne above God's throne and be like the most High.
  - He became unsatisfied with his role serving God in heaven and he decided to rebel because he pridefully thought that he deserved all of the authority, praise and power that belonged to God.
    - Unthankfulness, dissatisfaction, coveteousness and pride mixed together and you have Satan rebelling and drawing other angels to his side, but they were cast out of heaven.
    - Satan has been working to get men and women to rebel against God ever since.

### He Cleans Up His Image

(1) And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

- Remember, Absalom was a deceiver, a liar and a murderer, he had plotted his brothers' death for two years before he did it.
  - Nobody would want a lying, murdering and deceitful king to rule over them, but Absalom wanted to be king, so the first thing that he does in verse 1 is to prepare chariots, horses and 50 men to run before him.
  - He starts a campaign to adjust his image, just like hiring a PR firm to make him look better.
    - If I have all of these chariots, horses and men, then I will look like a king to the people.
  - Imagine this huge procession rolling through town...the people would talk and say, I have heard bad things about him, but he looks good, he looks like a king should look!
- The devil has been trying to change his image before people since the beginning. He too is a lying and deceiving murder, but the Bible says that he transforms himself into an angel of light.

### He Tells What They Want To Hear

- (2) And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was *so*, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Israel.
- (3) And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.
- In those days, if a person had a controversy (a dispute, a question, an issue, a request), he would go to the gate in the morning and the king would be at the gate to hear and make decisions.
    - Absalom decided to get up early in the morning and “stood by the way of the gate” so that he could intercept anyone that was bringing their matter before the king.
    - The gate was where the most important decisions were made and Absalom had no authority to be there or made rulings, but he stood nearby.
  - The first thing that he would do is after hearing their controversy, he would say “see thy matters are good and right” he would tell them what they wanted to hear.
    - You are in the right, your side of the dispute is the winning side, your opinion is correct on the question.
    - The devil has been telling men and women what they want to hear since the garden of Eden.
      - You have a question about whether you should or shouldn't do something and you rightfully head to the king for the truth, and the devil will have someone along the way to give you the answer you want.
      - What city are you from, Absalom asks...I'm one of the tribes of Israel too.

- My girlfriend and I are getting pretty serious, but we don't have much money, should we move in together to save costs? If you took that question to the king, he would tell you to live separately before marriage because fornication is a sin against God.
  - But the devil will hear your matter...Oh, I believe God too, the Bible's thoughts on sex aren't really clear, they were for that time period in the past and not for today.
  - If you are in a loving, committed relationship, then you should move in together before you get married to see if you are really compatible.

### Accuses the King

- (3) And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.
- (4) Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!
- Absalom not only tells them what they want to hear, but he says in verse 3, "there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee."
    - The king/God doesn't care about your situation or your problem, because if he cared, he would have appointed a judge to help you, but instead he is living in the palace/heaven, not caring about his subjects/children.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- Not only does Absalom accuse the king of not caring, but he also accuses him of being unfair...if I was a judge and I heard the case "I would do him justice."
  - You won't get justice from the king, but you will get it from me, because I care about the people.
  - Absalom could care less about the people, he just wanted to be the king himself.
    - He hid his true motives, he didn't go into the town square and tell the truth, no he put himself between the king and his people and the people bought it.
      - Verse 6 says that Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.
    - The devil does not care about you, he only wants to defeat God, take his throne and cause the people to turn away from the true God, not because he loves them, but because he desires the power and the praise.
- Which king are you following today? The true king, Jesus Christ or the false king that tells you what you want to hear?
  - He wants to turn your heart away from God, but one day the truth will come out for all to see...

Isaiah 14:15-16 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. (16) They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;